

Message Text

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ACTION EA-06

INFO OCT-01 SS-14 ISO-00 NSC-05 NSCE-00 INR-05 CIAE-00

SP-02 SAJ-01 PRS-01 DODE-00 PM-03 L-01 /039 W

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R 130554Z JUN 75

FM AMEMBASSY TAIPEI

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5591

INFO AMCONSUL HONG KONG

USLO PEKING

AMEMBASSY TOKYO

AMEMBASSY MANILA

TO RUMJSL/AMEMBASSY SEOUL

AMEMBASSY BANGKOK

CINCPAC

S E C R E T TAIPEI 3418

LIMDIS

CINCPAC FOR POLAD

E.O. 11652: XGDS-1

TAGS: PFOR, RP, TW

SUBJECT: GROC REACTION TO PHILIPPINE RECOGNITION OF PRC

REF: A. TAIPEI 3363

B. TAIPEI 3341

C. TAIPEI 2788

1. SUMMARY: ALTHOUGH THERE IS SOME BITTERNESS OVER PHILIPPINE RECOGNITION OF THE PRC, THE GROC HAS IN GENERAL REACTED IN A MODERATE MANNER TO THE DECISION. WE BELIEVE THAT TAIPEI WILL SOON MOVE TO COMPLETE THE ESTABLISHMENT OF UNOFFICIAL TIES WITH THE PHILIPPINES AS DISCUSSED REF A. END SUMMARY.

2. GROC REACTION TO THE JUNE 9 SINO-PHILIPPINE COMMUNI-
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QUE ESTABLISHING RELATIONS BETWEEN THE PHILIPPINES AND

THE PRC HAS BEEN GENERALLY RESTRAINED. STRONGEST LANGUAGE USED TO DATE WAS THAT OF PREMIER CHIANG CHING-KUO IN DISCUSSIONS WITH THE AMBASSADOR JUNE 10. HE CALLED SPECIFIC ATTENTION TO THE WORDING OF THE ANNOUNCEMENT AND TO VARIOUS STATEMENTS OF PRESIDENT MARCOS. IT WAS OBVIOUS THAT HE REGARDED THESE WITH CONSIDERABLE DISTASTE AND SOME DISTRESS.

3. PREMIER APPARENTLY ALSO WANTED TO HIGHLIGHT THE UNFRIENDLY NATURE OF MARCOS' STATEMENTS. HE CITED THE ANTI-HEGEMONY LANGUAGE IN THE COMMUNIQUE, IMPLYING THAT IT WAS AIMED AT THE U.S., AS WELL AS USSR AND THE REFERENCES TO CALLS FOR A REVIEW OF SECURITY ARRANGEMENTS -- PRESUMABLY INCLUDING BASES. IN SUM, THE PREMIER SUGGESTED THAT MARCOS MIGHT BE MAKING AN UNANTICIPATED SHARP TURN TOWARD THE COMMUNIST CAMP, POSSIBLY PRESENTING NEW THREATS TO US SECURITY POSITION IN THE REGION AND, SPECIFICALLY TO OUR CONTINUED USE OF PHILIPPINE BASES.

4. IN CONTRAST, VICE MINISTER OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS FRED CHIEN (CHIEN FU) IN CONVERSATION REPORTED REF A APPEARED TO TAKE ENTIRE MATTER IN STRIDE. HE CLEARLY ENVISIONED GROC FAIRLY QUICKLY ESTABLISHING A PRACTICAL WORKING RELATIONSHIP WITH THE PHILIPPINES AND CONTINUING ON A BUSINESS-AS-USUAL BASIS IN THE NEAR FUTURE.

5. AS ONE MIGHT ANTICIPATE OTHER GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS WERE FAR LESS FORTHCOMING IN PUBLIC STATEMENTS. MINISTER OF ECONOMIC AFFAIRS SUN YUN-HSUAN SAID THAT THERE HAD NOT YET BEEN ANY NEGOTIATIONS TO MAINTAIN PHILIPPINE-ROC TRADE TIES AFTER RECOGNITION AND NOTED THAT RP TRADE WAS NOT IMPORTANT TO THE ROC.

6. DR. HAN LI-WU, FORMER AMBASSADOR TO THE PHILIPPINES AND DIRECTOR OF THE INSTITUTE OF INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS, WHILE NOTING THAT RECOGNITION WAS NOT UNEXPECTED, WARNED THAT MARCOS WAS ON A DANGEROUS COURSE.

7. WE NOTE THAT GROC ANNOUNCEMENT (REF B) ON PHILIPPINE ACTION IS LONGER THAN MOST RECENT STATEMENTS AND STRONGER IN TONE. IN THE LAST TWO YEARS, FOR EXAMPLE, THE GROC HAS
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"SUSPENDED" (CHUNG CHIH 0022/2972) RELATIONS WITH OTHER COUNTRIES BUT IN THE PRESENT CASE IT "TERMINATED" (CHUNG CHIH 4807/2972) THEM. GROC ALSO FOLLOWED RECENT PRESS LINE WARNING THAT THE RP ACTION WILL "GIVE...ADDED OPPORTUNITIES" TO PEKING FOR INFILTRATION AND SUBVERSION.

8. COMMENT: ALTHOUGH THERE IS BITTERNESS OVER PRESIDENT MARCOS' ACTION, AS ANTICIPATED REF C THE GROC

HAS TAKEN A MODERATE APPROACH IN DEALING WITH THE PROBLEMS
CREATED BY PHILIPPINE RECOGNITION OF THE PRC. WE HAVE NO
REASON TO DOUBT THAT THE FILIPINOS WILL BE ABLE TO
NEGOTIATE UNOFFICIAL TIES SIMILAR TO THE JAPANESE MODEL.
WHILE RP TRADE MAY NOT BE IMPORTANT TO TAIWAN, THE LARGE
OVERSEAS CHINESE COMMUNITY IN THE PHILIPPINES HAS MANY
PERSONAL AND FINANCIAL TIES HERE AND THIS, ALONG WITH
PRACTICAL REALITY, WILL PROBABLY BE THE OVERRIDING
CONSIDERATION.

9. PRESS REACTION WILL BE REPORTED SEPTTEL.
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